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SUBJECT: NOMINATION FOR THE SECRETARY OF STATE'S AWARD FOR CORPORATE EXCELLENCE

REF: STATE 66434

Post is pleased to nominate Citigroup, an American company that operates in over 100 countries around the world for the Secretary's Award for Corporate Excellence. Here in Ecuador,

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Citigroup operates as a fully embedded financial services institution. They are committed to the notion of being a good corporate citizen by contributing positively to the economy as well as giving back to communities through philanthropy and community service.

As a good corporate citizen, they have strived to improve the community in which they operate in three areas: education, economic and community development, and quality of life. Through their grant dollars and business and employee volunteers, they have focused on areas that offer the greatest opportunity to build economically strong, vibrant and self-sustaining communities and individuals. As such, they have supported the Junior Achievement Foundation since 2000, with approximately \$100,000 to support different business and financial education programs, benefiting 4,000 children and young adults. In addition to the economic contribution, more than 100 Citigroup employees, which represent 80 percent of their staff, have volunteered to participate as instructors and advisors in Junior Achievement programs, adding up to more than 2,000 volunteer hours.

On the environment side, with a \$70,000 grant, in 2003 and 2005 Citigroup supported a sustainable cocoa production project, sponsored by Rainforest Alliance in the Ecuadorian Coastal Region, benefiting more than 500 local growers and their families. In addition to helping small cocoa producers to improve the environmental impact of their cocoa production, this initiative also assisted growers in increasing their income through training and direct access to international cocoa markets.

In the last four years, Citigroup has donated \$185,000 to support micro-entrepreneurs and micro-finance programs through Fundacion Esquel and Finca, organizations devoted to help women and low-income teenagers start their own businesses. Citigroup executives have assisted by providing financial and banking education, advice and business conduct seminars.

In 2004, Citigroup Ecuador began a partnership with Habitat for Humanity and have built six houses in Quito and Guayaquil, benefiting more than 42 individuals. Citigroup was the main sponsor when Operation Smile started its mission in Ecuador in 1995. Citigroup executives have contributed as volunteers in several surgical missions conducted nationwide, improving the quality of life of many children with facial deformities.

Citigroup's exemplary business practices include regular training to employees in order to shape the best executives in the Ecuadorian market. In 2004 Citigroup Ecuador was ranked as the Most Respected Company in the country in the category of "Leadership and Quality of its Executives" in a survey of business executives conducted by Lideres Magazine, PriceWaterhouse Coopers and the Superintendent of Companies.

Citigroup also brought innovation to the financial services industry through their high-tech transaction-banking platform "CitiDirect." They were the first corporate bank to establish a top quality service model (CitiService), offering efficient and effective on-line solutions to their clients.

This year, Citigroup is celebrating its 45th anniversary in Ecuador with a long and solid trajectory of service to their clients and the country. Today, Citigroup is the largest international financial institution in the country, and has been ranked by BanksWatch Ratings with the best risk qualification in the Ecuadorian market AAA-, for three consecutive years. Citigroup epitomizes the best of American companies, quality, innovation, a "can-do" spirit and community service. Citigroup Ecuador deserves the Secretaries Award for Corporate Excellence.

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